

# Peabody Institute Library



124th Annual Report

June 1975

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## STAFF

Thomas F. Scully, *Director*  
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Esther L. Johnson, *Childrens' Librarian*  
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Dana J. Rizzotti, *Technical Services Librarian*  
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Abina L. Chase, *Clerk*  
Irene Y. Bouras, *Clerk (C.E.T.A.)*  
Catherine T. Travalini, *Clerk (C.E.T.A.)*  
Kim Bresnahan, *Senior Page*  
Marcia Glassman, *Senior Page*  
JoAnne Kwiecinski, *Senior Page*  
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## SOUTH BRANCH

Mary Rogalski, *Branch Librarian*  
Ellen Burrows, *Library Assistant*  
Mary Cullen, *Library Assistant*  
Lorraine Economou, *Library Assistant*  
Helen Hegarty, *Library Assistant*  
Cynthia Hubbard, *Library Assistant*  
Caroline Spinale, *Library Assistant*  
Joseph Yelverton, *Custodian*

## WEST BRANCH

Beryl Strogney, *Branch Librarian*  
Cheryl Brown, *Library Assistant*  
Joan Cantor, *Library Assistant*  
Lillian Tenney, *Library Assistant*  
Sheryl Adler, *Page*  
James Connors, *Custodian*



This is the 124th annual report of the Peabody Institute Library for the year ending June 30, 1975.

The major concern again this year was buildings. In November, the architects submitted their final feasibility plan for the renovations and addition to the Main Library. After a presentation to the City Council, the Mayor appointed a committee of citizens to make a final recommendation to himself and the City Council. The committee composed of Councilors Louis Cersosimo and David Donovan and John Foley, Frank Gainley, Joan Shanahan, Robert Varney and Anne Tiffany, chairperson reported back to the Mayor and Council in June. They recommended that the City acquire ownership of the Main Library and that the building program as designed by Interact be adopted. The City Solicitor, responding to a request from the Board of Trustees, ruled that the City could not bond money for the Library project until the Library was owned by the City. In June, the City Council requested that the City Solicitor draft the necessary legislation.

In December, the Library received a grant of \$11,000 from the Sarah G. McCarthy Foundation for the Library building program. The Library was also awarded \$20,000 as the first installment of a projected \$350,000 grant under the Community Development Block Grant Program to be used in the restoration portion of the building program.

In West Peabody, the long promised renovation of the library basement for a childrens' room and conference area got under way in February and was quickly stopped as one contractor challenged the awarding of the job to another bidder. The City Engineering Department vacated the rear of the South Branch Library in April leaving the Veterans' Services Department as the remaining agency to be relocated.

Miss Mary Rogalski, a graduate student in Library Science was hired in September as Librarian for the South Branch. Mrs. Lorraine Economou resigned in November of 1974 and Mrs. Ellen Burrows retired after 7 years in South Peabody in June. At the Main Library, Mrs. Catherine Travalini and Mrs. Irene Bouras were appointed clerks under the Federally funded C.E.T.A. program in April. Mrs. Gloria Lawrence, a library assistant at the Main Library resigned in January.

Due to the tight budget, we were unable to replace the two library assistants and page who resigned in South Peabody and the library assistant at the Main Library. We were able to appoint full-time Technical Services Librarian who, with the aid of the C.E.T.A. clerks has helped us to reduce some of the backlog in the cataloging department. The help situation, however, remains critical.



The attempted theft of the portrait of Queen Victoria in April resulted in improved security measures. A more sophisticated burglar alarm was installed to cover the main floor and the Sutton Room. The glass covering the portrait and medals was replaced with Lexan and the vault walls were reinforced in several places. The medals and the gold boxes were appraised by Longs Jewelers of Boston.

On the positive side, we were able to make some improvements during the year.

The two branch libraries joined the standing order plan for large print titles. A periodical collection and a record collection were started in the West Branch and a collection of college catalogs and a pamphlet file were started in the South Branch. All three libraries joined the McNaughton Rental program for new books and the program was so successful that the collections were doubled in the Main Library and at the West Branch and increased by 50% at the South Branch.

The Main Library purchased two microfilm readers and began receiving all periodical subscriptions on microfilm. We completed microfilming the backfiles of the Peabody papers and we began receiving The Boston Globe and The New York Times on microfilm. We completed a three year program of removing deteriorated and outdated books from the collection. Seventy-five percent of the science collection predated World War II and was discarded. We ordered every science title recommended in The Public Library Catalog and in the "Choice" college library opening day collection. In future years, the same extensive buying program will be necessary in the social sciences and the humanities.

In August 1974, our truck, purchased with Federal funds, was delivered and we began monthly deliveries of books. Almost 1200 books were distributed to 4 nursing homes and 4 elderly housing projects. A two year project of refilling and dividing the Main Library card catalog was completed. There are still, however, thousands of books on the shelves which are not in the card catalog and thousands of cards in the catalog for which we no longer have the books. We finished reclassifying a large section of the literature collection and began reclassifying the biographies and some of the history collection. The Sutton Library Collection still remains to be catalogued.

Our many programs such as the Great Books discussions and the childrens' story hours continue to be very popular.

Again my thanks to a very hardworking professional staff which gave 110% last year and I hope in the coming year we can make further progress in giving the staff the tools and

facilities to better serve the people of Peabody.

Thomas F. Scully  
Director



STATISTICS JULY 1. 1974-JUNE 30, 1975

CIRCULATION	MAIN BRANCH	SOUTH BRANCH	WEST BRANCH	TOTAL
Books	65,993	30,703	47,520	144,216
Periodicals	1,844	369	1,129	3,342
Pamphlets	249	111	---	360
Records	2,627	---	572	3,199
Films & Filmstrips	301	---	---	301
Museum Passes	45	---	---	45
TOTAL	71,059	31,183	49,221	151,463
ACQUISITIONS				
Books	2,910	696	1,420	5,026
Records	10	---	190	200
Pamphlets	478	450	---	928
Films & Filmstrips	10	---	---	10
TOTAL	3,408	1,146	1,610	6,164
WITHDRAWALS				
Books	4,821	631	623	6,075
Records	66	---	1	67
Pamphlets	0	---	---	0
TOTAL	4,887	631	624	6,142
HOLDINGS				
Books	42,308	9,305	14,086	65,699
Records	1,020	---	190	1,210
Pamphlets	690	450	---	1,140
Microfilm Reels	821	---	---	821
Microfiche Cards	12	---	---	12
Films & Filmstrips	11	---	---	11

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